

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a novel form of the (-)-enantiomer of 5-methoxy-2-[[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)-methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole, *i.e.* *S*-omeprazole.

- 5 More specifically, it relates to a novel form of the magnesium salt of the *S*-enantiomer of omeprazole trihydrate. The present invention also relates to processes for preparing such a form of the magnesium salt of *S*-omeprazole and pharmaceutical compositions containing it. Furthermore, the present invention also relates to new intermediates used in the process.